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## BOOK REVIEWS

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*M. Tulli Ciceronis Cato Maior de Senectute*, edited with introduction and notes. By FRANK E. ROCKWOOD, A.M., Professor of Latin in Bucknell University. Pages 159. Price 90c. American Book Company.

*M. Tulli Ciceronis Cato Maior de Senectute*, edited with notes. By E. S. SHUCKBURGH, M.A.; revised and in great part rewritten by JAMES C. EGBERT, JR., Ph. D., Adj. Professor of Latin, Columbia College. Pages 182. Price 40c. Macmillan & Co., Elementary Classics.

THE greatest excellence of Professor Rockwood's book is its liberal use of illustrative parallels from English, Greek and Latin literature. These are printed just beneath the text on each page, while grammatical notes and translations are brought in after the complete text. Among the illustrative selections we note several from Emerson's essay on "Old Age" and others from Longfellow, Browning, Whittier, Bryant, Byron, Wordsworth and Shakespeare. This literary comparison cannot fail to heighten the pleasure of the student and educate him to a keener appreciation of his heritage in literature. In 1882 Professor John L. Lincoln of Brown University prepared an edition of Ovid of which a prominent feature was the introduction of short and musical selections of English verse both into the notes and as companions to the text. It is probably not accidental that the author of this excellent literary edition of *De Senectute* was a pupil of Professor Lincoln. The debt of American classical teaching to that broad, sensitive and enthusiastic man cannot be too often or too generously recognized. Professor Rockwood has made a happy selection from Professor Lincoln's sympathetic essay on *De Senectute*, published in the Lincoln memorial volume.

Professor Rockwood takes Cicero somewhat too seriously. In his comment he does not sufficiently reflect the versatility, vivacity and sprightliness of the Roman. Some use might well have been made of

Dr. Holmes' humorous treatment of De Senectute in the "Autocrat." The drollery of that treatment would be relished by college boys and girls, while their teachers ought to see its fine intelligence and serious undercurrent. If Cicero had been a Bostonian he would have enjoyed Dr. Holmes hugely. They were in many respects kindred spirits and would have been often together at the Athenæum.

We are reminded that the quotation from Bryant beneath Chapter II is not in point. Cato is not saying that time flies more rapidly in youth than in age, but that age creeps upon us unawares, just as Dr. Holmes suggests when he unexpectedly introduces Old Age to the man who does not know him, and does not want to.

The most questionable feature of this edition to many will be the extremely long biographical notes inserted among the literary matter. More than two hundred words apiece are given to Themistocles on page 53, Fabius Maximus on page 54, and Marcus Livius Salinator on page 56. The information given is contained in all the histories and classical dictionaries. The facts given can be fully understood only by a pupil who has studied ancient history connectedly, and if he has not done this fifty words of comment are better than two hundred. Furthermore, the thread of the Latin reading is broken by this somewhat discursive comment upon people only incidentally introduced, and the idea of mere information is exalted at the expense of literary appreciation and inspiration.

The same fault appears in Professor Egbert's revision of Shuckburgh, English edition. In its original form the difficulty was partly avoided by the device of a biographical index, but Professor Egbert has put the matter into the notes. In this edition words, the use of which involve common grammatical facts or rules, are explained by footnotes beneath the text giving the bare references to the grammars of Allen and Greenough, Gildersleeve and Lodge, and Harkness. Grammatical notes abound, too, in the general notes. To many these grammatical notes will seem excessive in number. Some of them are vague or ambiguous; on page 65—"adiūerō for *adiūverō*—the long vowel becomes short after the loss of *v*." Is this because the *u* then stands before another vowel? If so, the general rule should be referred to or the note omitted altogether.

"Versāt: original final vowel was long." The pupil will not understand this note. The characteristic *ā* is long in the first declension and here retains its length even before final *z*. "praemī: the *ī* form of the

genitives of nouns in *ium* appears a short time before the imperial period, hence we do not find it in Cicero, Vergil and Horace." Cicero died a short time before the imperial period and Vergil and Horace during it. According to facts and reasoning here given, they ought to have used *ii* in their later writings.

"Saepe numero (p. 69): the word *numero* is a simple ablative with adverbial force." This might be said of almost any ablative. The statement should bring the word under one of the common categories.

On page 70, Professor Egbert gives the direct form of putassent as putaverant, and Professor Rockwood (on page 116) as putaveram. Are they not both wrong? The sense seems to require putaveramus. The use of the long word homoeoteleuton to name the repetition of an ending seems needless. On page 75, "*makes a sufficiently good use of his life, gets enough of it*," seems contradictory—we leave in disgust things which we get enough of.

The best thing in this edition is the admirable life of Cato which it contains. Its interest is due most largely to the literary skill and sense of Mr. Shuckburgh, but Professor Egbert has improved the paragraphing and increased its unity by throwing out some matter relatively irrelevant. He has weakened the piece by expunging twelve concrete, pictorial and characteristic incidents or events in Cato's life, *e. g.*, "the people of the town saw with feelings between amusement and admiration the famous Censor and General riding into town with saddlebags on his horse in which to carry back what he had purchased," or "This is the wife whom Seneca must mean to describe as of humble birth, given to wine, violent and what is more astonishing, capable of giving herself airs to Cato himself; the old story of an old husband and young wife."

Professor Egbert has not only revised but also in large part rewritten the English edition.

Both Professor Rockwood and Egbert have marked all long vowels in the text—the former following Lewis' Elementary Latin Dictionary, the later Marx's "Hülfbucklein."

We may congratulate ourselves on having two more careful, scholarly editions of a choice classic.

ISAAC B. BURGESS

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